Paralakhemundi Railway Station in Orissa

3018. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to close down Paralakhemundi Railway Station in Ganjam district, Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to review the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Introduction of Train from Delhi to Ayodhya

3019. KUMARI ALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a Shatabdi type train between Delhi and Ayodhya via Faizabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Operational and resource constraints.

Broad-gauge Railway line in Gujarat

3020. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for putting up a broad gauge railway line between Gandhidham and Kutch in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details of proposals of new railway lines which are likely to be included in the Eighth Five Year Plan in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Eighth Plan proposals have not been finalised so far.

Mobile Book stall in the Trains

3021. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the period of agreement of each mobile Book-stall running in the trains is for three years and renewal is also made for the same period; and

(b) if so, whether it is a fact the Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railways are not following the same, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) At present, the instructions are that all catering/vending and Book-stall contracts due renewal should be renewed for a period of three months only. These instructions are applicable to all the Zonal Railways including Eastern and South Eastern Railways.

Pilferage and theft in Railways

3022. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pilferage and theft in Railways are on the increase and that the same has resulted into unnecessary payment of claims during the current financial year as compared to the corresponding period last year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the increase is due to demoralisation of RPF staff who have either been removed from service of facing charges on petty omissions/annonymous complaints, especially in Northern Railways; and

(c) what remedial measures Government propose to take to curb the crimes and to boost the morale of force?